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NEW PEACE INITIATIVES
LAUNCHED BY FELLOWSHIP

VAILS GATE, N. Y. -- Four specific new efforts to involve Episcopal Church members in work for world peace were initiated by leadership of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship meeting at the Convent of St. Helena, Vails Gate, N. Y., Oct. 23-26.

First, to support the ongoing work of the Church's Joint Commission on Peace, a Peace Education in the Parish working group was created to develop resource materials, begin to train parish peace educators, and develop a model program on personal reflection upon peace in one's own lifestyle. Chairing this working group is the Rev. Thomas Feamster, rector of Grace Church, Paris, Tenn.

Second, to focus Church attention on specific international armaments issues already facing all humanity, the Fellowship renewed its Arms Race Group under previous national vice chairman Dana Grubb of Ascension Church, Gaithersburg, Md. The Arms Race Group will work in support of the House of Bishops' Chattanooga pastoral letter, the bishops' anti-MX missile petition, the Episcopal Urban Caucus' work toward arms race curricula for parish use, and the multi-denominational arms moratorium or "freeze" campaign.

Third, in recognition of the multiple military threats to human survival and to take advantage of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship's recent return to full time national office staffing, the national executive committee agreed to mount the first systematic membership and organizational development campaign within the past decade. Convening this executive committee group will be the Rev. Alex MacDonnell, rector, St. Luke's Church, Haworth, N.J. Goals include increased membership, contributions, local chapters, and intra-church publicity.

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Fourth, the Fellowship formally endorsed the effort being led by Sojourners Peace Ministry in Washington, D.C., to oppose the annual, national series of nuclear weapons exhibitions hosted by the Air Force Association at Sheraton hotels. The Fellowship's fall 1981 executive committee meeting will be held in Washington, D.C., a month earlier than usual, and in conjunction with a national membership conference, to exert maximum support for public opposition to what these "arms bazaars" represent.

During the executive committee's deliberations, free lance writer Joe Vitale visited with the group as part of his preparation of a January Episcopalian article about the Episcopal Church and the arms race.

The Episcopal Peace Fellowship is a 42-year-old organization within the Episcopal Church accepting as its special ministry assistance to conscientious objectors, war tax resisters, and their families. Current national chairman of the Fellowship is the Rev. John M. Gessell, Sewanee, Tenn. The Fellowship's national office is located on the grounds of National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., at Hearst Hall, Room 252, Wisconsin Ave. & Woodley Rd., N.W., 20016. Its executive secretary is the Rev. Denise Giardina, 202/363-5532.

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